

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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DEPT ALSO PASS TO DR P. EHRLICH, OIH/DHEW, AND DR L.HOWARD, AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO

SUBJECT: WHO REPORT ON EB PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: A) GENEVA 9494, B) GENEVA 9247

1. SUMMARY. WHO HAS JUST RELEASED ITS REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER 1-6 PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING AS DOCUMENT EB59/6, PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEM 12, FOR SUBMISSION TO THE WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD WHICH MEETS AT WHO HEADQUARTERS BEGINNING JANUARY 12. MISSION HAS FORWARDED COPIES TO THE DEPARTMENT AND DHEW AND WILL HIGHLIGHT ONLY A FEW ITEMS. SEE PARA 5 BELOW FOR DG MAHLER RECOMMENDATION THAT ONE OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS SHOULD BE TO SET INDICATIVE TARGET FIGURES FOR FUTURE WHO BUDGETS. END SUMMARY.

2. REDUCTION IN DOCUMENTATION. THIS SUBJECT CAUSED HEATED DISCUSSION, PRINCIPALLY BETWEEN THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE AND DG MAHLER. TO CONTINUE PUBLISHING OFFICIAL RECORDS, IN THEIR PRESENT FORM, WILL REQUIRE MORE THAN \$800,000 FOR 1978-1979. MAHLER'S PROPOSAL TO CUT BACK 50 PERCENT IN DOCUMENTATION SHOCKED SOME MEMBERS, ALTHOUGH HE MADE CLEAR IT WAS A PRACTICAL AND OVERDUE WAY TO EFFECT SAVINGS WITH-

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OUT HURTING THE ORGANIZATION. (COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES HIS PROPOSAL IN GENERAL IS TIMELY AND PRACTICAL -- MUCH

ALONG THE LINES OF WHAT THE GENEVA GROUP CO-CHAIRMEN HAVE BEEN PROPOSING FOR ALL SPAS.) THE COMMITTEE ENDED UP WITH MODIFICATIONS AND SUGGESTED A FUTURE STUDY BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHA29.36.

3. ABOLISHING WHO POSTS. MEMBERS WERE ALSO CRITICAL, BUT MAHLER REASSURED THEM A COMMITTEE WOULD BE SET UP IN GENEVA TO GIVE EACH CASE INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION. FOR THOSE IN HEADQUARTERS POSTS TO BE ABOLISHED WHO DO NOT RETIRE OR LEAVE WHO, ONE YEAR WILL BE GIVEN BEFORE THEY MUST ACCEPT TRANSFER TO THE FIELD, ALTHOUGH THERE WILL STILL BE HARSHIP CASES. OF 313 HEADQUARTERS POSTS TO BE ABOLISHED, 55 ARE ALREADY VACANT AND WILL NO LONGER BE FILLED (ONE OR TWO EXCEPTIONS); 172 ARE PROFESSIONAL, 141 GENERAL SERVICE (40 POSTS ALONE ARE BEING ELIMINATED OUT OF 118 IN THE PUBLICATIONS DIVISION). OVER THE NEXT 4-5 YEARS, 200 STAFF ARE EXPECTED TO RETIRE (BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN POSTS TO BE ABOLISHED), WHICH GIVES SOME FLEXIBILITY IN MAKING THE REDUCTIONS WHEN ASKED WHY THE REDUCTIONS IN STAFF HAD NOT BEEN STAGGERED INSTEAD OF TAKING EFFECT MOSTLY IN 1978, MAHLER REPLIED HE WANTED TO SHOW POLITICAL REALITY IN IMPLEMENTING THE WILL OF THE WHA ASAP, IN ADDITION TO WHICH THE ORGANIZATION CAN ACCOMPLISH IT BY 1978 WITHOUT BEING HURT.

4. EARMARKING MONEY TO DG'S AND RDS' DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. MEMBERS INQUIRED ABOUT THE CONSIDERABLE SUMS OF MONEY BEING EARMARKED TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS' DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WITH SO LITTLE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THE USE OF THESE FUNDS IN 1978-79. MAHLER EXPLAINED THERE HAD BEEN NO TIME BETWEEN THE LAST WHA AND NOW TO WORK OUT DETAILED PROGRAM PLANS FOR 1978, BUT HE WILL DO BETTER FOR 1979. IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, MISSION WAS INFORMED MAHLER IS CRITICAL OF WHO'S PAST PROGRAM BUDGETING PROCEDURES BY WHICH COUNTRY PROJECTS ARE PLANNED IN TOO MUCH DETAIL TOO LONG BEFORE THEIR OPERATING PHASE, MAKING INVOLVEMENT BY MEMBER STATES IMPOSSIBLE. MAHLER NOW TALKS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ABOUT AN "OPEN-DOOR POLICY" TOWARD PROGRAM BUDGETING. HE WANTS INTERESTED MEMBER STATES TO BEGIN PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDANCE AND NO LONGER FEEL EVERY WHO PROJECT IS WRAPPED UP THREE YEARS TOO EARLY IN A 700-PAGE WHO DOCUMENT. THIS IS ANOTHER REASON WHY HE EARMARKED MONEY FOR HIS OWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SO THAT INTERESTED MEMBER STATES AT THE NEXT EB AND WHA MEETINGS CAN PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT PLANNING.

5. WHERE DOES THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE GO FROM HERE?

INTERESTINGLY, MAHLER RESPONDED TO THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE'S QUESTION BY RECOMMENDING THE COMMITTEE BE USED FOR BUDGETARY FORECASTING; IN EFFECT, FOR SETTING INDICATIVE TARGET FIGURES FOR WHO'S PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1980-81 (SEE COMMENTS, PARAS 8, REFTELS A AND B). HE CRITICIZED THAT PAST WHAS HAVE NOT BEEN HELPFUL, HAVE NOT GUIDED HIM, YET THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF WHAT THE COMMITTEE HAS REALLY BEEN DISCUSSING ALL WEEK. (THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE DOUBTS THAT BUDGETARY FORECASTING IS A PROPER ROLE FOR THE COMMITTEE.)

6. OTHER PROGRAM COMMITTEE ROLES SUGGESTED BY MAHLER (NO. 6 BELOW) AND THE COMMITTEE WERE TO:

1) KEEP UNDER REVIEW MAHLER'S REORIENTING OF WHO'S WORK TO MEET THE 60 PERCENT BUDGET.

2) SEEK INVOLVEMENT IN WHO'S PROGRAMMING PROCESS, LEADING TO BASELINE INFORMATION FOR THE 7TH PROGRAM OF WORK.

3) MONITOR THE 6TH PROGRAM OF WORK SO AS TO INTRODUCE DESIRABLE MODIFICATIONS.

R) BEGIN REVIEWING IN DEPTH AND ON A LONG-TERM BASIS ONE OR TWO KEY PROGRAMS PER YEAR (SOVIET SUGGESTED STARTING OFF WITH HEALTH MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH).

5) STUDY AND COMMENT ON A POSITION PAPER ON LONG-TERM FORECASTING TO BE PREPARED BY MAHLER FOR GOVERNMENTS.

6) BECOME INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF A MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAM ON HEALTH MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT (EMRO REGIONAL DIRECTOR TO ACT AS SECRETARY IN VIEW OF EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL OFFICE'S EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA).

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7. COMMENT. REFTEL A, PARA 3, SUGGESTED WHO'S SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN TROPICAL DISEASES (TDR) IS TO BE FUNDED FROM REGULAR AND EXTRA-BUDGETARY SOURCES AND LEFT IMPRESSION WHO BUDGET DOCUMENTATION WAS NOT PRECISE ENOUGH. WHO'S PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT JUST ISSUED (ANNEX 1, PAGE 32) AND ORIGINAL POLICY PAPER MAKE CLEAR THAT "THE GLOBAL CORE GROUP REQUIRED FOR OVERALL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT... WILL BE FUNDED FROM THE REGULAR BUDGET" BUT THE ORGANIZATION WILL ALSO SEEK "MASSIVE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL FUNDS" (DONORS' MEETING AT WHO HEADQUARTERS DECEMBER 7-8, 1976). CATTO

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